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Annual AIPC Conference

Along with an extensive educational program and series of new program briefings, the recent 2007 Annual Conference of the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC) delivered a new Board of Directors and a set of winners for the newly launched AIPC Innovation Award.

The Conference also included a poster session for 16 entries in **the AIPC Innovation Award** competition, a program begun this year to recognize projects or initiatives that represent the development of new, more creative or more effective approaches to any aspect of congress centre management, operations or marketing. Three awards were made from the wide range of projects submitted for consideration:

The first to the **Metro Toronto Convention Centre** in recognizing the importance of "green" issues to congress centres through their Zero Waste program

The second to the **CCIB Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona** for their new program for the management of technology, and

The third to the **Washington State Convention and Trade Centre**, Seattle, for the development of a food and beverage program that combined service, marketing and community relations.



▲ The AIPC Welcome Reception in Graz

Board elections at the General Assembly that followed the Annual Conference resulted in a new Board of Directors and Association Executives. Along with Past President Barbara Maple of Vancouver, Canada, the AIPC Board now includes President Edgar Hirt of Hamburg, Germany; Vice President Geoff Donaghy of Cairns, Australia; Treasurer Edgar Gnanou of Paris, France; Steve Piper of Brighton, UK; Antti Vihinen of Lahti, Finland; Marisa Marin of Bilbao, Spain and Paul Saint-Jacques of Montreal, Canada.

For further information: www.aipc.org

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Congress on dermatology chooses Gothenburg

In October 2010 Gothenburg will become a magnet for dermatologists and researchers in dermatology and venereology. One of the largest international congresses ever to be held in Gothenburg is likely to attract 9,000 delegates from all over Europe.

The congress will take place on 6–9 October 2010 and is known as the International Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV). Its purpose

is to improve the quality of care and give dermatologists the opportunity to catch up on the latest scientific findings.

“Of course we’re extremely pleased they have chosen to hold the congress here. I see this as recognition of the international importance of dermatological research at the Sahlgrenska Academy and at Sahlgrenska University Hospital,” says Olle Larkö, Dean and Professor of Dermatology at Sahlgrenska Academy.

The decision to hold the nineteenth congress in Gothenburg was taken recently at this year’s EADV congress in Vienna. Until now the congress has only been held in capital cities, such as Amsterdam, Munich, Prague and Paris.

“Gothenburg is recognized as a great venue for conferences, and I believe there were many factors that helped us secure this congress. One is that Gothenburg is a smaller city and everything is within easy reach, so the delegates can

walk from their hotels and there is no need to make transport arrangements for 9,000 people,” says Olle Larkö.

The congress will mean at least 27,000 overnight stays and big revenues for hotels, restaurants, transport companies, shops and other businesses in the tourism sector. It is expected that the delegates will spend over SEK 100 million during their stay in Gothenburg.

For more information;
www.goteborg.com

Experient Opens Las Vegas Centre

Experient, the source for integrated meeting and event solutions, celebrated the opening of their new operations center in Las Vegas in June. This is Experient’s 10th US location.

‘Las Vegas is one of the premier event destinations in the United States with tremendous hotel and convention facilities. It is an important market for Experient and for our clients and it plays an important role in our future growth plans. It just made business sense for us to have a permanent presence in the city,’ says Experient CEO Ed Shartar.

For further information: www.experient-inc.com



▲ Ribbon Cutting

Graz is getting ready to host AIPC General Assembly

This year’s conference programme will focus on responding to global change and will give insight into challenges and opportunities of change in all areas of convention centre management. Local host and long standing AIPC member Nikolaus Breisach together with his team from the Grazer Congress, Convention Centre Graz are putting together an exciting and creative social and networking programme in and around the Styrian capital Graz to accompany the highly ambitious educational programme. Besides some traditional Styrian highlights, the networking programme will feature jazz on an artificial island, two “Eat Art” events by the famous artist and founder of Eat Art, Daniel Spoerri, or a hiking tour guided by Robert Schauer, the first Austrian ever to climb Mount Everest.

The AIPC conference website with all details on the Grazconference is online on www.aipc.org. The site is a “one-stop shop” for delegates to register and to plan their trip to Graz— plus additional info on the city of Grazin Austria.

For further information:
www.grazercongress.at

